

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

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Sac Coalition of Reason
Calendar: sacramento.unitedcor.org/sacramento/page/events

Subscribe

Volume I, Issue I2

Issue Theme: New Traditions

December 2013

HumanLight Party - Dec. 22

Dec. 22, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm

Location : Curtis Hall, Sierra 2 Community Center, 2791 24th Street, Sacramento

It's that time of year again, when the joint HAGSA and AOF HumanLight/Winter Solstice event allows freethinkers to have their



own time to be festive and to celebrate reason, common values and friendship.

This is a potluck event, so bring something to share. There is entertainment, plus a raffle (with proceeds covering the rent for Curtis Hall) and two food charity drives (one for people and one for pets). There is no charge for either the event or for parking.

Will you be bringing kids? Please click [here](#) to let us know via email how many and how old so that we can have some special activities for them.

Potluck: Prepare or buy your favorite dish to share. Your food should be already prepared and ready to serve. The kitchen at the

hall has a microwave oven, sink and refrigerator, but no conventional oven or stove. Plates, bowls, utensils, napkins and cups will be provided. Please bring some beverages to share too. We'll start eating at or close to noon.

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Facebook.com search for 'Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason'. 'Like' the Sac CoR Facebook page, where you will find a daily variety of news, humor, insights and tools for every person of reason. Our readers represent 20 countries. 40% live in the Sacramento area. Sign up to keep informed! ([Click Here](#)) or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191>



Christmas Was Outlawed Once

Christmas was outlawed in the United States once? Yes, in Boston. This country was founded by Protestants running away from the control of fellow Protestants, but they had one thing in common - they all hated anything to do with the Pope, and Christmas was called "trappings of Popery". And now this country calls this a traditional American Christmas? **REALLY?**

Freethought Dinner Social

Taste of Thai
1628 Broadway
[Map here.](#)
Dec 13, 6:15 PM

Ooh...Friday the 13th....hmm...
Please join us for conversation and good food.
There is decent parking available and since it's on Broadway nobody should have to fight much traffic.

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"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Billboards are going up this holiday season. Will your voice be heard?

Atheism is at war to secure our intellectual freedom.

Religion drains prosperity, happiness, intellectual freedom and love from all honest men and women. Religion is a disease, an epistemological disease that progressively undermines one's capacity to think, to identify reality, to live competently. Religion is also a collective disease that affects everyone who looks toward others, or the group, or the leader for solutions to his or her problems and responsibilities.

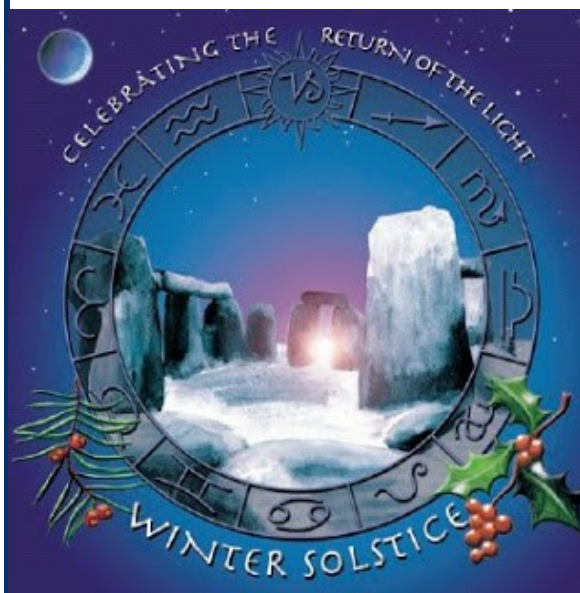
Religion is also the tool that the religious use to justify or rationalize the use of force, fraud, or dishonesty to usurp values from the producers. For example, religion is used to create illusionary standards and false guilt designed to beguile individuals into surrendering their earned values and happiness.

Religion also leaves the mind open to irrational ideas as well as trying to impose irrational ideas onto others. Religion is the fertilizer of deception.

Religion is a rebellion against life, effort, values, and the conscious mind. It is based on a false and evil idea: the primacy of emotions. Religion is the only disease of the conscious mind. But as with drugs and alcohol, religion is seductive, seeming comfortable, like a warm old friend until the destructive consequences and hangers manifest themselves.

THEIR disease affects us all. It permeates into our school systems, roping our science teachers and tying their hands behind their backs while suffocating them with threats of losing their jobs. It spreads like wildfire in areas where there is no voice of reason to mitigate its destruction. If we ignore it, people are needlessly victimized every moment. Those who would try to escape are murdered. Those who speak up are assassinated. Those who try to help are silenced. Are you ready to be heard?

Andrea Griffith is a Social Intelligence expert. Learn what to say and do to get the results you want.





Ancient Christian Study Group - Dec. 15, at Noon

Shine Cafe, 1400 E St. [Map here](#). For atheists who want to know the foundations of Christianity better than Christians do. Previous biblical knowledge is not required to participate. Review the history of Rome, religions of the Roman empire, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, history of Christian persecutions, biographies of major Christians, the history of the Bible and many other related topics. Everyone welcome.

“Out of the Closet” FFRF Billboards - All Over Sacramento! (cont'd on pg 13)

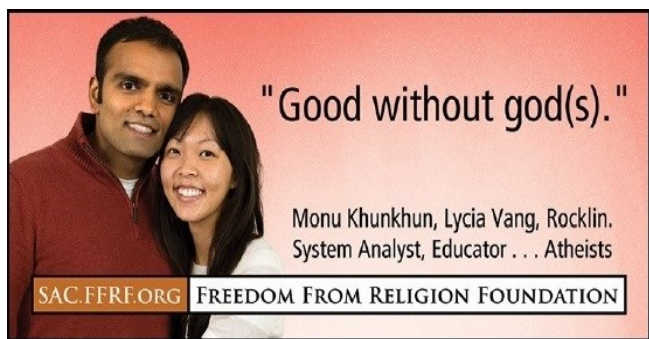
The Greater Sacramento Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation members are aggressive watchdogs, and FFRF has a staff of attorneys to prove it. We have already won victories against local cities 3 times since we became a chapter in February just 10 months ago. The billboards are to encourage others to openly admit their non-belief, to help in this fight for our rights. Why Sacramento? Because we're a new chapter in an active community that is very aggressive in our pursuit of FFRF values.

What you can do to keep religion out of government: Come out! Comment under articles, write Letters to Editors of newspapers, share links on social media, speak up at family gatherings, swap out your religious ornaments, bring friends to the Dec. 21 Meet n Greet, send secular holiday cards (make your own), rethink pretending Santa is real with your own children, donate money to FFRF, vote, and when confronted with religion at least say you don't agree even if you just walk away. You may use the button below to donate to the billboard fund, or the FFRF staff of attorneys, or to help other FFRF needs. To join the local Chapter, first [join FFRF](#) then tell us you've done that at sac@ffrf.org (no chapter dues).

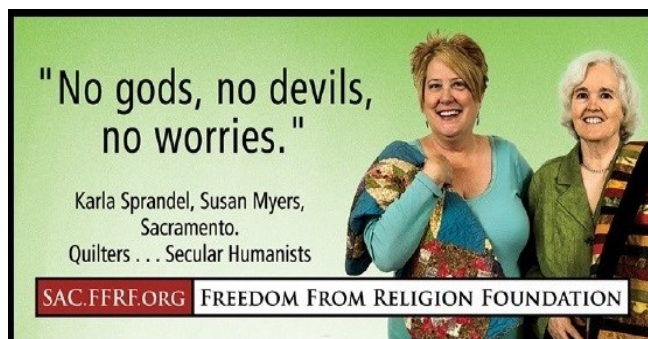
Link to see all billboards online (please share): <http://ffrf.org/uploads/images/SacBB/index.html>

Join FFRF

Donate



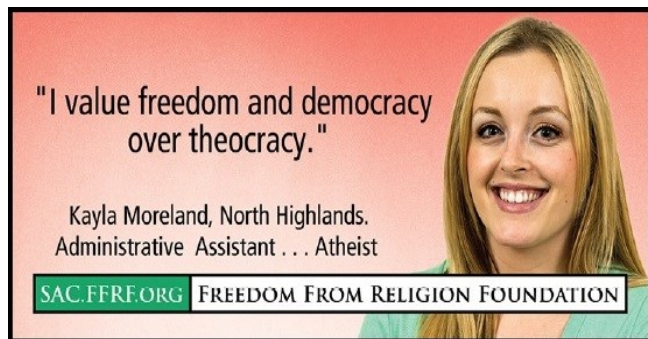
Auburn Blvd, north of Aldona, west side



Muir Way, north of McClatchy, west side



Watt Ave, 670' north of Q St, west side



Watt Ave 825' north of Elkhorn, west side

All billboard portrait photography donated by fellow atheist Matt Martin and assistant Kim Martin.

Some popular 'Meet, Eat n Drink' Addresses and Maps:

Dec 14 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)

Dec 15 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mels Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)

Dec 15 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)



Blaspheming With Food Every 3rd Sunday!

Happy heathens on a fine Sunday morning! Every 3rd Sunday of the month, in various locations, come sit down to breakfast or brunch with us. Everyone is welcome! It's a nice way to meet like-minded friends. No topics, just have fun. [See the calendar](#) for all locations.

Book Clubs

Sacramento

Be thinking of which books you would like to suggest for the 2014 series. [Add your suggestions here.](#)

Most area book clubs are not meeting in December. Check back!

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Sacramento Reason

Hands-On Science for All Ages

After a bit of learning, go hands-on in a real laboratory using the same equipment used by professional scientists. Two classes currently available: **"Acids Aren't Created Equal"**

Battery acid, lemon juice, vinegar. All are acids, but they aren't the same. Learn how to measure acid



Red Cabbage pH indicator changes color depending on acid strength.

strength (pH) and how to change the strength of the acids – your fish and your pool will thank you. Use acids to generate gases and find out which gas is hydrogen. **"CO₂ – It's Sublime"** What's the difference between a balloon filled with air and one filled with carbon dioxide? Why does dry ice make fog? Can your exhaled breath sustain a flame? Learn about the fascinating properties of CO₂ and its role in our environment. Cost: \$50 due at class.

PRIMA Environmental, Inc., 5070 Robert J Mathews Pkwy, Ste 300, El Dorado Hills 95762 [Map here.](#)

Friday December 6, 4:00 pm and 6:45 pm - "Acids Aren't Created Equal"

Friday, December 13, 4:00pm and 6:45pm - "CO₂ – It's Sublime"

RSVP to Dr. Cindy Schreier at 916-768-3234 or cindysathome@gmail.com.

'Ask an Atheist' at Arden Fair Mall - Dec. 14, Noon [Map here.](#)

Meet inside, upstairs in front of Cinnabon, by Sears. Look for the bright blue shirts.

What better audience to see our "Ask an Atheist" t-shirts than holiday shoppers? Don't have a shirt? Buy one from Judy when you show up.



We don't approach people, we just walk around in pairs, smiling, and even do our own shopping. Have a good time while you remind people that not everyone is celebrating the baby Jesus! Just be yourself - if you don't know an answer, say you don't know. Usually we get thumbs up more than questions. Join us. Have a good time. Get some shopping done at the same time. Activism was never easier!

Philippines Disaster Recovery and Relief
 Donate by clicking the AAI image at right. Be part of real assistance.



ATHEIST
 ALLIANCE
 INTERNATIONAL
 FOR A SECULAR WORLD



Upcoming Events cont'd from pg 1

27 Sacramento
Skeptics in the Pub
27 Karaoke at To-
rii's in Modesto

Save The Date
June 12 - 14 Wash-
ingtonDC Lobby Day



Davis Area Freethinkers

Dec 16, 6 PM
 Crepeville
 330 3rd St, Davis
[Map here.](#)

Dinner and Free
 thinking at Crepe-
 ville. Come enjoy
 great people and a
 huge menu.

Topic: Freethinking
 books, essays or
 authors. Or, just sit
 back and listen in!

Finally!

The Skeptic's
Annotated Bible is
in Print!
[Buy it here.](#)

Volume 1, Issue 12

Issue Theme: New Traditions

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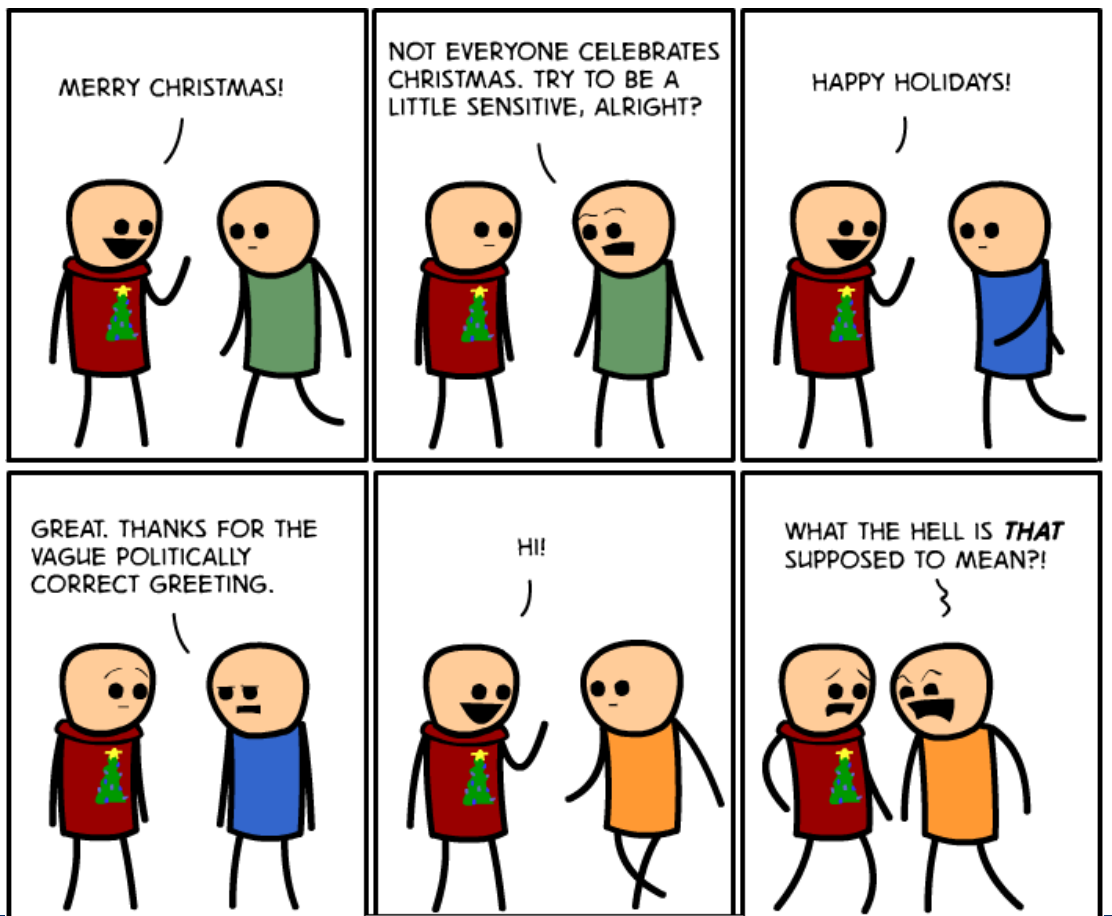
Karaoke Night!

Dec 27, 8:00 PM
 Torii Japanese Restaurant
 2401 East Orangeburg Ave, Modesto
[Map here.](#)

Come sing, dance, or heckle with us at
[Torii's Japanese Restaurant.](#)
[Meetup information here.](#)

For those of you with children, Torii's is a
 family restaurant until 10, so the kids can eat
 and sing with us if they like. Some of us are
 also known to hit the dance floor at the first
 beats of Love Shack! Come join us!

Sponsored by Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers Meetup



Cyanide and Happiness © Explosm.net

Game Nights

Atheists and theists are all welcome. Bring a friend, roommate or honeypie. Chatting, eating, playing, laughing. Sound good? Several to choose from. Be sure to check the calendar for updates.

[Sacramento Dec 14 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Oakdale Dec. 13 at 7:00 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

Dec. 4, 6:30 PM
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Blvd
[Map here.](#)

For new and current members of SacFAN. A casual event with a quick overview of the group and plenty of time to just hang out and get to know each other.

- What SacFAN is
- Recent news and announcements
- Other local, related groups of interest
- Upcoming Events

After that, everyone is invited to continue to socialize and stay as long as you like. Buy some great drinks and snacks, and make some new friends!

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Activist Corner By Julie Wedge

It's that time of year again. Shopping malls are decked out with traditional pagan Solstice decorations and the religious are claiming them as their own. We are making plans to visit friends and family, holiday parties are on the calendar seemingly every night, and of course the talk of the War on Christmas. What is a non-believer to do?

We would like to take this opportunity to mention: You are not alone. Many of us celebrate the Festival of Lights decorating our homes with Yule trees and planning bonfires for our families to gather around and celebrate the coming of winter. We also talk to those who ask...and sometimes those who do not ask... about our own traditions. The holidays are a great opportunity to show your friends and family you celebrate seasons, you celebrate family and you celebrate light all without supernatural intervention. We have a great opportunity as non-believers to share our stories of what an amazing planet we are fortunate enough to live on! Every 3 months the seasons change, but there seems to be something special about winter.

As the weather becomes colder, we are forced inside and that means closer to those we love. As we hunker down, we should not be hiding. So as we sometimes dread the coming of the holidays, and we dread the constant barrage of Christmas songs on the radio filled with the words of the religious, take heart. There are many of us who have chosen to celebrate the real reason for the season – Solstice! We hope you look into the Festival of Lights, the Yule tree, and the history we non-believers embrace, and that you share that joy with others. As we venture into another winter, we encourage you to chat up your friends on the wonders of Solstice!

How Do I Find My Representatives?

US Senate: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

State Senate/Assembly: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Local representatives can always be found on your City or County websites.

Local Groups to Visit or Join

Name	Emphasis		Tax Ded		Website
Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA)	UC Davis student group Meets Tuesdays, 6:10 great topics	Y		Y	agasadavis.wordpress.com
Americans United for Sep of Church and State (Sac Chapter)	Promotes individual activism, confronts violations	N	Y	National only	au-sac.org
Atheist Student Organization (ASO)	CSUS student group Meets Fridays at noon.	Y		Y	csusaso.wordpress.com
Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF)	Events both social and presented, for growth and fun.	Y	Y	N	aofonline.org
Brights Action	Translate our naturalistic worldviews into constructive actions for school/library/media	Y	Y	Internat'l only	the-brights.net/
FACTS Church	Church-like hymns, rituals, all the trappings in secular form.	Y	Y	N	factschurch.com
Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation	Protecting the constitutional principle of separation of state and church.	Y	Y	N	sac.ffrf.org
Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA)	Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good.	Y	Y	National only	hagsa.org
Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason	Directing the community to the various groups of reason.	Y	N	Y	SacramentoCoR.org
Sac Area Skeptics (SAS)	Promotion of skeptical thinking, awareness of reality, logical skills.	Y	Y	Y	http://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/
Sac City Freethinkers	Sac City College student group Meets every Thursday.	Y		Y	saccityfreethinkers.wordpress.com
Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN)	Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects, games, activism.	Y	N	Y	SacFAN.org
Sac Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT)	Discussions of rational thinking and science over mysticism and anti-rationalism.	Y	N	N	home.comcast.net/~kitray2/site/?/home
Sac Think Atheist	Events, podcast, and forum to fight anti-atheism and gain tools.	N		N	thinkatheist.com/group/sacramentocalifatheists
Secular Coalition for California	Train to engage media and lobby state politicians. Activist resource.	N	N	Y	Secular.org/states/chapters/california
Secular Student Alliance or Freethinkers of Sierra	Sierra College student group Meets Thursdays at 1:00.	Y		Y	secularstudents.org/sierra
Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)	Meetup events, variety	Y		Y	StocktonAAF.org
Sun City Roseville Humanists	Humanist opportunities for our Sun City residents. Meets 1st Sundays from 1:00 to 3:00.	N	N	N	scred.org/sub_category_list.asp?category=98

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS
IN HOLY MATRIMONY
humanistweddings.org



Perform Legal Weddings

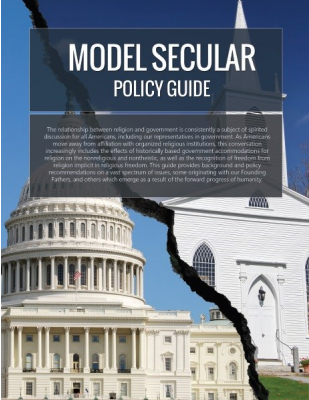
Become a fully legal Wedding Officiant with American Humanist Association using this online course. [Link here.](#)

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Sacramento Reason

MODEL SECULAR POLICY GUIDE

The relationship between religion and government is consistently a subject of spirited discussion here at Sacramento Reason. Making our representatives in government as Americans more aware of the effects of religiously based government action on the secular and religious communities, as well as the importance of religious freedom in our society, is a goal of this project. The guide presents background and analysis for religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and offers suggestions for policy, practice, and other relevant issues as a result of the ongoing project of humanism.



Secular Policy Guide

Finally, we can tell our elected leaders exactly what a secular America would look like. Here are our issues and concerns, put together by the Secular Coalition for America.

[Link here.](#)

The policies we advocate help to promote a religiously-neutral government. They are solid policies that are good for the country as a whole—both the religious and non-religious alike.

[Subscribe here](#) to receive the emailed Newsletter, Action Alerts, or Morning Read by SCA.

Legal Watch By Arash Khosrowshahi, Boalt Hall Juris Doctorate, 2013

[Congratulations on Passing the Bar, Arash!]

The Supreme Court heard arguments in *Town of Greece v. Galloway* on November 6. The legal issue presented is whether prayers at town board meetings violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment even in the absence of discrimination in the selection of prayer-givers and content. The text of the Establishment Clause, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...", suggests that the answer is no, but Supreme Court precedents make the answer far from certain.

The famed *Lemon* test has lost much of its force in analyzing establishment issues in recent years. Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas favor a coercion test, finding that prayers and invocations that fall below citizens feeling coerced into joining a religious ceremony are constitutionally permissible. Justice Scalia's also commented that society has determined that atheists and polytheists in particular are constitutionally excluded from this public tradition. There is also precedent in *Marsh v. Chambers*, which held that legislative prayers were constitutionally permissible as part of American history and tradition, which existed even when the First Amendment was ratified. This view found some skepticism from Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy. Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and Stephen Breyer asked questions suggesting that government involvement in parsing which prayers were and were not sectarian was troublesome, as was people of minority faiths who felt excluded by not participating in prayers or by virtually not being represented by leaders of their own denominations, or who felt coerced into participating in order to receive favorable treatment by the board for their requests.

It appears the Court faces a choice between finding constitutionally permissible government involvement ensuring such prayers are nondenominational, or if that is unworkable, whether to disallow prayers altogether or allow any kind of prayer from anyone at town board meetings.

How the Court decides this issue will impact the limits of religious activity our local governments can participate in. As nonbelievers, we have the chance to affect grassroots change by taking such issues head on in our own communities if we feel there is an infringement of our rights. You can start by notifying your legislators and city council members, or at least let the local FFRF, ACLU and AU chapters know of any such praying happening locally.

Link: http://www.oyez.org/cases/2010-2019/2013/2013_12_696



NATIONAL SECULAR NEWS - LISTEN EVERY WEEK

Call (559) 726-1300 every Thursday at 9:00 AM Enter Code: 953064. Or, if you prefer getting your national secular updates by email, then [sign up here](#).



The Science of Everyday Thinking

-Free Course-

[Enroll here.](#)

Learn how to think better, argue better, and choose better.

We will explore everyday thinking: why people believe weird things, how we form and change our opinions, why our expectations skew our judgments. We discuss and debate topics such as medical diagnosis, paranormal phenomena, placebos, miracles, and more. You will learn how to evaluate claims, make sense of evidence, and understand why we so often make irrational choices.

Let's all start this in March together, as a group! [Sign up now!](#)

Volume I, Issue I2

Issue Theme: New Traditions

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Family Time

By Rick Tracewell

New Regular Feature!



How many times do we have to hear about the "War on Christmas" or that "Jesus is the reason for the season" from various religious groups? It's become a mantra for the "talking head" circuit, particularly Fox News (can't help but giggle when I hear "Fox" and "News" put together) during the holiday season. So much so that their "followers" (see the pattern there?) actually believe that there is a raging war to shut down Christmas in America. But, let's examine who is really destroying our wintery time of goodwill toward men...

Does anyone see a bunch of atheists all hopped up on books and scientific facts, running amok around the country tearing down Christmas decorations and knocking over baby Jesus in his manger? No, (unless it's government-sponsored) it's not what atheists do.

For many of us atheists this holiday time is spent with family and friends, reflecting on the year together and enjoying the holiday spirit of warmth and giving. No war there.

However, we Americans with our feet solidly on terra firma are watching Christmas gobble up (pun intended) not only the Friday after Thanksgiving, but now Thanksgiving itself with stores opening up on Thanksgiving day, and many touting green and red gifts in early November and a few even in October! If there is a war, it is a war on family time and giving from the heart.

So, where is the real war on Christmas? It's the corporate interests pushing all of us to get out there and shop, shop, shop, or if you are a worker, then to work, work, work, instead of spending time with loved ones. Our "family time" at Christmas has become time spent in line at midnight in a strip mall. That is the REAL war on Christmas. Do your part to fight it.



Cyanide and Happiness © Explosm.net

Annual HumanLight Celebration (Cont'd from Page 1)

Entertainment: Be prepared to be entertained! The Mockingbirds will be performing some new secular songs. Professional dancers Roger Zabkie and Pamella Rivera



will perform some smooth dance moves. New this year, we will do a sing



-along of some popular seasonal tunes. We'll also be playing a secular trivia game in teams. We've been having fun collecting trivia questions all year long to use for this event. Questions will cover science, current events, popular entertainment, and significant moments in the secular world. The winning team will receive a special prize.

Raffle: The raffle helps pay for the rental of the hall so that we can make attending the event free. Raffle prizes so far include two tickets to the 2014 Oregon Shakespeare Festival (valued at \$100), a gift card to Hoppy Brewing Company restaurant, freethought books, and other fun prizes. If you have something you'd like to donate to the raffle, please click [here](#) to send an email message to the event organizers.

People and Pet Food Charity Drive: The charity food drives have been so successful that we are doing it again! We will be collecting food and basic supply items for two local charities, the River City Food Bank and the Sacramento Pet Food Bank ("Titanic's Pantry"). So either dig through your pantry or consider purchasing something at the store to donate. We will also have donation jars available for cash or check donations for both charities. This is a wonderful opportunity for the freethought community to come together and show their compassion and kindness for others in need in our local community. Donations for human and pet food and supplies are encouraged, but not required.

The Brights' Free Little Library Grand Opening!

"It was a wonderful celebration! A total of 35 people stopped by to share the fun and refreshments. The neighbors seemed genuinely pleased with this handsome addition to their street, and conversation was



lively and interesting. Today's celebration marked the conclusion of 10 months of careful planning, many meetings, negotiating and problem solving, and extraordinary teamwork. Congratulations to one and all!" (Alice)

"From idea to launch, this project is a measure of what even a small group can contribute to community and connection, and have such fun while doing it! Thanks to all who supported it in any way!" (Mynga)

See it at: [1136 Santa Barbara Court, Sacramento, CA](#)

“Out of the Closet” FFRF Billboards - All Over Sacramento! (Cont'd from Pg. 3)

Media Attention from Across the Nation

[KIRO Seattle \(original video\)](#) ... [Huffington Post](#) ... [Fox News \(the national group\)](#) ... [Sacramento's News 10 \(original video\)](#) ... [The Christian Science Monitor](#) ... [Los Angeles Times](#) ... [NewsMax](#) ... [Reuters News Service #1](#) ... [Reuters News Service #2](#) ... [Latin Post](#) ... [The Examiner #1](#) ... [The Examiner #2](#) ... [The Examiner #3](#) ... [God Discussion](#) ... [Sacramento's KTXL Fox 40 \(original video\) \(not Fox News\)](#) ... [UPI Press Service](#) ... [OpposingViews](#) ... [WebProNews](#) ... [The Inquisitr \(seriously??\)](#) ... [The Christian Post](#) ... [The Washington Times](#) ... [The Blaze](#) ... [MSN Now](#) ... [WND \(World Net Daily\)](#) ... [Fox DC \(Washington DC\)](#) ... [Bayou Buzz #1 \(Louisiana\)](#) ... [Bayou Buzz #2 \(Louisiana\)](#) ... [Grand Forks Herald \(North Dakota\)](#) ... [9News \(Colorado\)](#) ... [Fox Atlanta \(Georgia\)](#) ... [Yahoo! News \(752 comments\)](#) ... [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#) ...

[The Sacramento Bee](#) article comes out Monday by reporter Tillie Fong. She interviewed quite a few local atheists for up to an hour each!



The Friendly Atheist (popular blog)
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2013/11/25/in-sacramento-an-astounding-55-billboards-with-atheist-messages-will-go-up/>

Outword Magazine, the local area LGBT Magazine, page 6: http://www.outwordmagazine.com/download_pdf.htm

Our billboards were #4 in the Yahoo! News Trending column.

Behind-the-Scenes Tidbits

By Judy Saint

We were stopped dead by one designer who refused to do the project, so the billboard company had to hire a designer from their Fresno office. My billboard contact said, “Well, everyone is entitled to their beliefs.” Except we aren’t, I guess. Anyway, the company management took care of us.

One reporter kept going back to how offended people will be. I said it's probably more accurate that people will be surprised and shocked, and they interpret that as taking offense since they are unprepared to know what to feel about this. They have been the majority so long that this surprise will feel like they are being attacked and will put a sense of being offended upon themselves as their only way to identify the feeling. This was all quite an education for several of the reporters. Some, though, confided they're atheist. One wants to cover all the separation of church and state stories we can come up with.

There's a funny story about our “Pastafarian”. It's a good thing I caught it in the proof set they sent me, and had them fix it. They thought it was a mistake, and had changed it to Rastafarian!

“Seriously, this is just so awesome ... I can't feel prouder of my community,” from a Facebook comment. This is the highest goal I could ever have hoped for - that atheists would feel *pride* after hiding so long! My years of work come down to that one statement for me. It's what I will always remember from this once-in-a-lifetime campaign - that someone said they felt proud of their (atheist) community. I do, too.

What I learned

by David Diskin

After spending a long hour reading and replying to comments on the FOX NEWS article about our billboards, I have come to learn a few things:

1) December belongs to Christians, because this is their holy month. No one else is allowed to talk until January. (This includes Jews, Muslims, etc.)

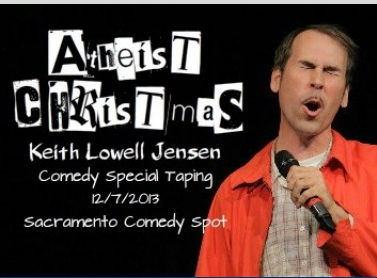
2) Atheists are incapable of celebration, love, charity, morality, or happiness.

3) Atheist billboards force Christians to lose their faith, perhaps immediately upon sight.

4) Atheists should just shut up and sit down when others want to use taxpayers' time and money to promote their religion.

5) Atheists have no right to use their own money to solicit members and show support for each other, and everything an atheist says is insulting (and should be banned).

6) Christians never advertise, and if they did they'd never put up insulting, demeaning, controlling messages or tell other people that they're wrong.



Comedy Spot: Atheist Christmas, Dec. 7, 8 PM

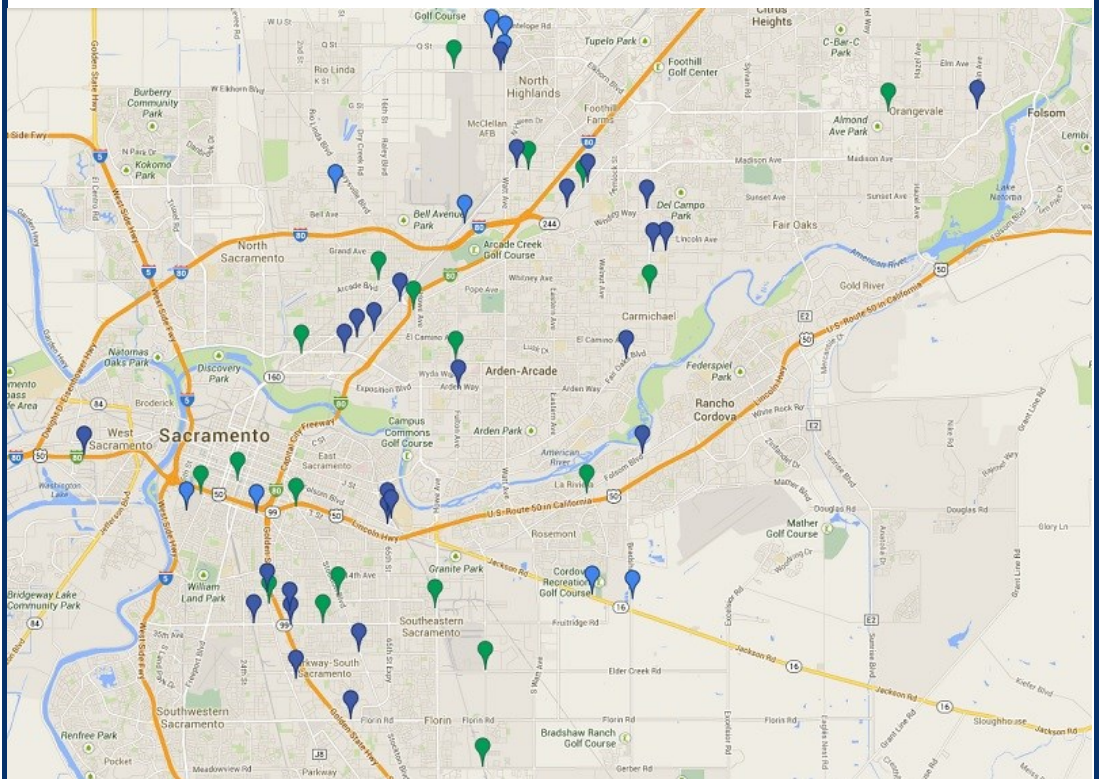
1050 20th Street, Suite 130, Sacramento, CA [Map here.](#)

Records recording artist, Super Comic, and Level 12 Atheist, Keith Lowell Jensen uses his powers for good presenting a night of blasphemous holiday ha ha's while also recording his fourth CD, to be titled Atheist Christmas.

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Sacramento Reason

Billboard Map (plus one in Davis)



MEET & GREET the Actual Billboard Participants!

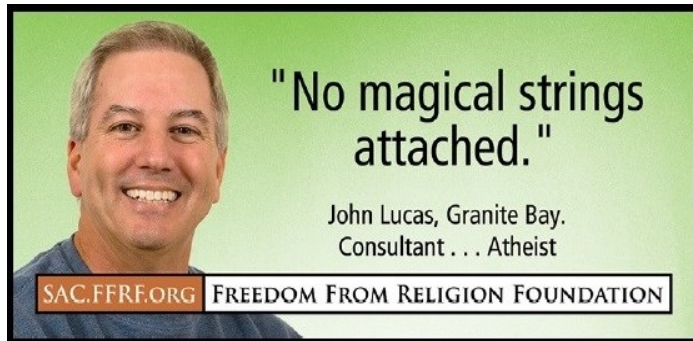
Saturday morning, December 21, 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Arcade Library Meeting Room, 2443 Marconi Ave, near Fulton, Sacramento

Come hear them introduce themselves, talk about life without religion, and why they participated in this billboard campaign. Bring your friends. Ask questions. Plenty of healthy snacks, and maybe a news camera or two.



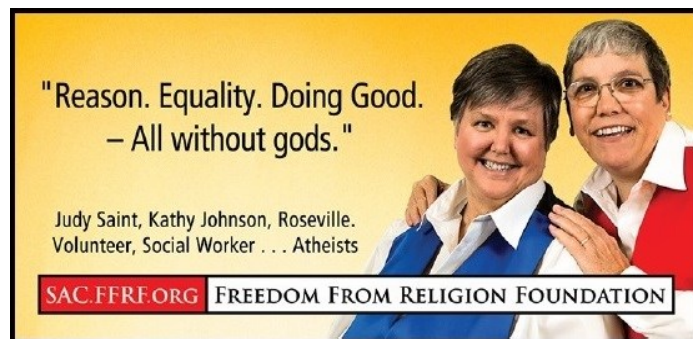
"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards (cont'd from pg 3)



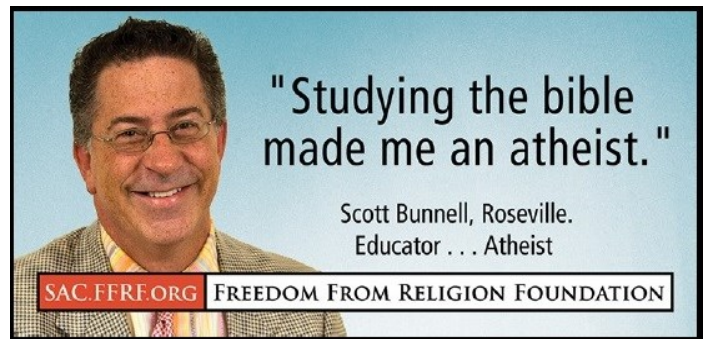
Winding Way 500' west of Manzanita, north side



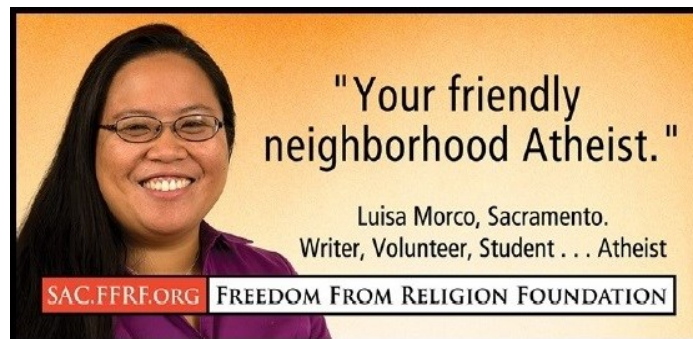
Fruitridge 125' west of Martin Luther King, south side



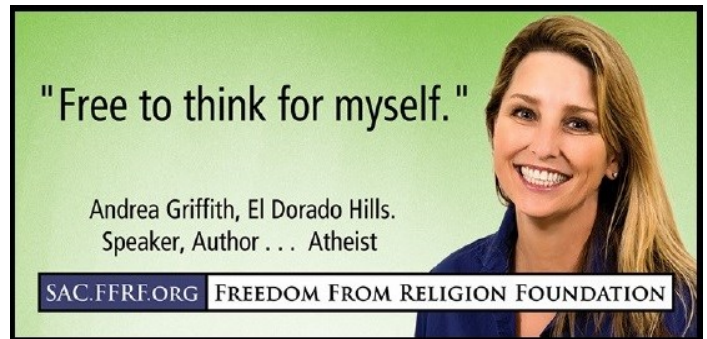
Broadway 50' east of 27th St., north side



Watt Ave 670' north of Q St, west side



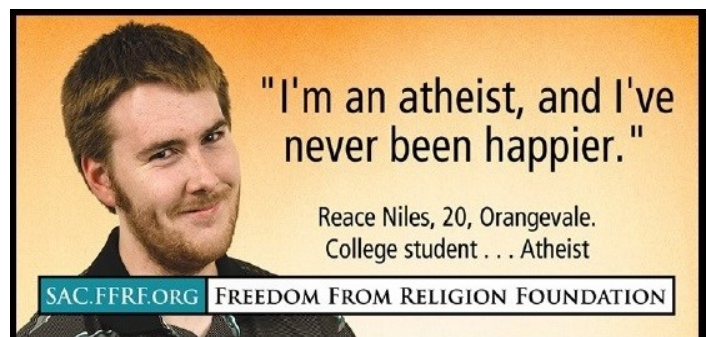
El Camino 265' east of Clay, south side



Fair Oaks Blvd & Garfield, north side

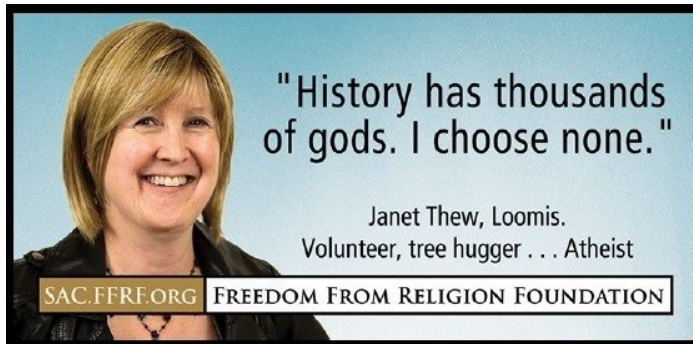


Main Ave 600' north of Greenback Ln, west side



Auburn Blvd 350' south of College Oak, west side

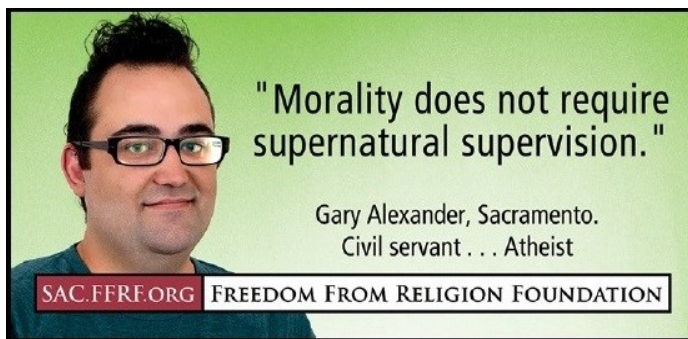
"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards



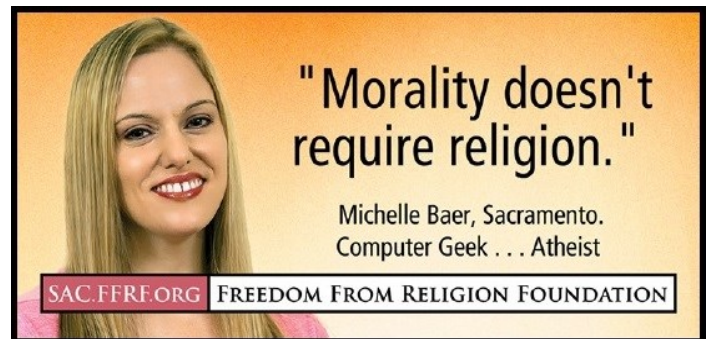
Fair Oaks 250' west of California, south side



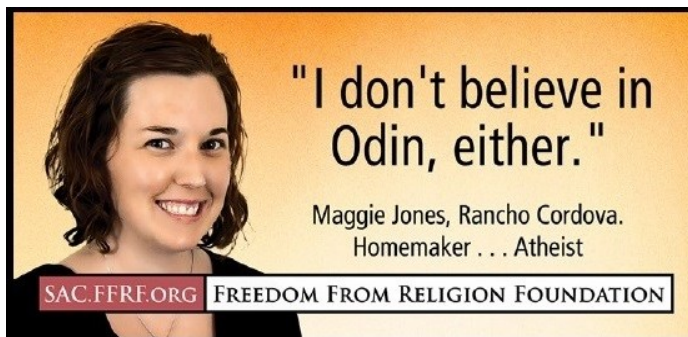
Folsom Blvd 145' west of 65th St, north side



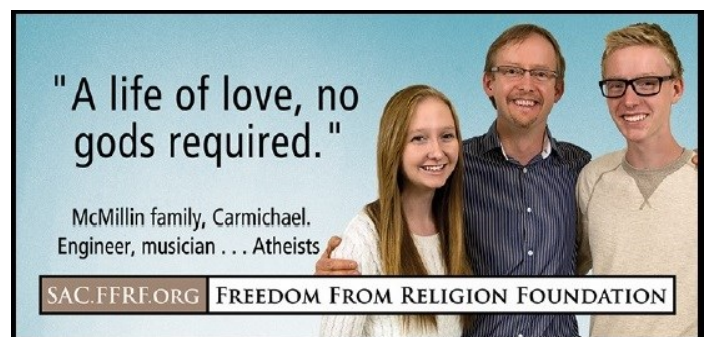
Stockton Blvd 500' north of Lemon Hill, west side



Franklin & 20th, south side



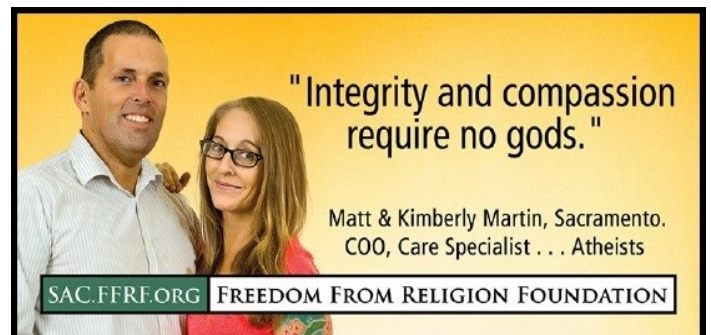
Bradshaw 1000' north of Jackson, east side



Fair Oaks Blvd 100' east of Wayside, south side



Folsom Blvd 500' east of Paseo Rio, north side



Fulton Ave south of Arden, east side

"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards

"Embrace skepticism!"

Eduardo Medina, 23, Sacramento.
Undergrad student . . . Agnostic

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Fruitridge Rd 100' west of RR tracks, south side

"I believe in one
less god than you."

Catherine Roy, Sacramento.
Knitter . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Rio Linda Blvd 300' south of Main, west side

"I worship nothing and
question everything."

Dylan McDonald, Sacramento.
Archivist, ex-Mormon . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Auburn Blvd south of Frianza, west side

"Science. It works."

Dan Pemberton, 28, Sacramento.
Student . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Elvas Ave 100' north of 65th St, east side

"I believe in humanity,
not god."

Brooke Byrd, Sacramento.
Volunteer . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Bus. 80/Hwy 50 2700' east of Harbor Blvd, north side

"Reasonable faith is a
contradiction in terms."

Bryson T. Sullivan, Sacramento.
Aerospace Engineer . . . Humanist

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Jackson Rd 1450' west of Mayhew, north side

"Doing our best to make
this life better."

Julie & Chris Wedge, Rocklin.
Consultants . . . Atheists

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Madison Ave 262' west of Polk, north side

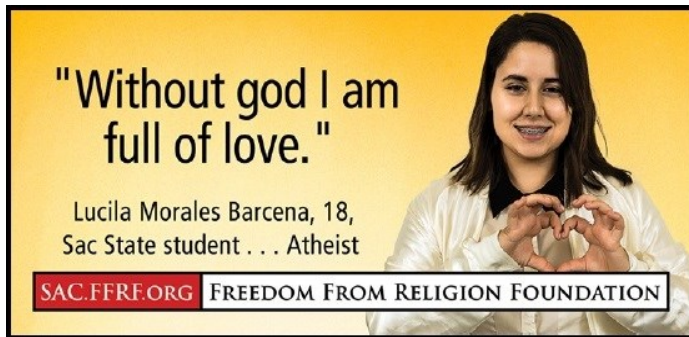
"Freedom from belief."

Sara A. Dowling, Rio Vista.
Dietary Manager . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRE.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Florin Rd 300' west of Sixth Pkwy, north side

"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards



Elvas Ave 100' north of 65th St, east side



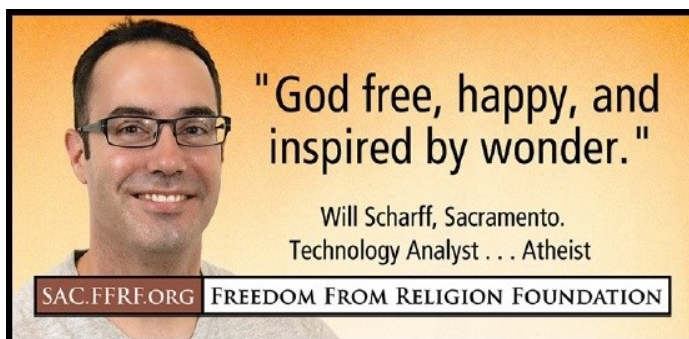
Fruitridge 125' west of Martin Luther King, south side



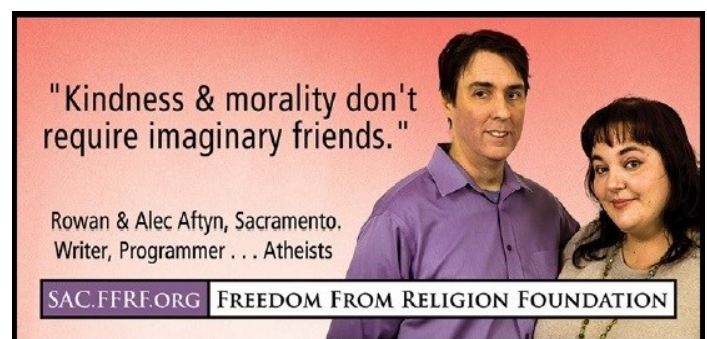
Roseville Rd 100' south of Orange Grove, west side



Marconi & Auburn, southeast corner



48th Ave 50' north of 47th Ave, west side



Elkhorn Blvd 250' west of Watt, north side



Fruitridge & Ethel -or- 19th & R St



Power Inn 0.6 mi north of Fruitridge, west side

"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards

"Heavens? No."

Beverly Miller, Davis.
Nutritionist . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

T St 55' west of Stockton Blvd, north side

**"The only higher power
I have is
on my microwave."**

Billy Nilva, Sacramento.
Retired Administrator . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Fulton Ave 150' north of Cottage Wy, west side

"Free your mind."

David Manhart, Sacramento.
Programmer Analyst . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Madison 178' west of Jackson, south side

**"Live bravely
and think freely."**

Shiu-chin Linda Hsu, Roseville.
Graphic Designer . . . Agnostic

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Stockton Blvd 104' south of Roosevelt, west side

**"Question Everything...
Worship Nothing!"**

Andrew Anchell, Elk Grove.
Respiratory Therapist . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Florin Perkins north of Elder Creek, east side

**"The world, without
religion, is beautiful."**

Cody Payne, Citrus Heights.
Retail Associate . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Fair Oaks Blvd 500' north of Stanley, east side

**"Skepticism is healthy
for children and
other living things."**

Linda Hirst, Winters.
AIDS Researcher . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Elkhorn Blvd 100' west of Del Paso, south side

**"Tis the Season to
Seek Reason."**

Al Gravitz, Sacramento.
Retired Biology Professor . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Greenback Ln 215' west of Illinois, south side

"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards

**"Real love doesn't
demand worship."**

Meghan Dingman, Davis.
Culinary student . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Broadway 270' west of Riverside Bl, north side

**"Doing good is
my religion."**

Mashariki Lawson, Sacramento.
Auditor . . . Humanist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Franklin Blvd 175' south of Atlas, west side

**"I trust reason
over legend."**

Aaron Harmon, Sacramento.
Accountant . . . Humanist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Arden Way 100' west of Del Paso Bl, south side

**"Because I believe
in myself, not a god."**

Carly Beard, Turlock.
Marketing . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Gerber Rd 300' west of French Rd, north side

**"We are descendants
of stardust!"**

Jessica Chappell, 24, Sacramento.
Student . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Folsom Blvd 300' east of Mayhew, south side

**"By losing faith,
I gained reason."**

Jeff Ford, Sacramento.
Computer gamer . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Marconi Av 218' east of Darwin St, south side

**"Religion is catchy
– like a virus."**

Roy Sablosky, Sacramento.
Editor . . . Humanist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

T St 55' west of Stockton Blvd, north side

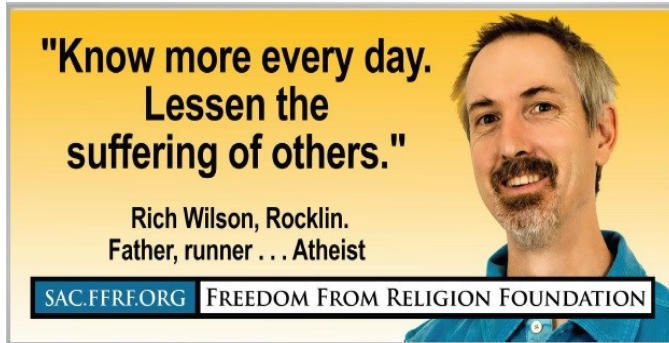
**"The world is
fascinating as it is.
No myths required."**

Rick Tracewell, Citrus Heights.
Dad, business owner . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Fruitridge & Ethel -or- 19th & R St

"Out of the Closet" FFRF Billboards



Auburn Bl 825' south of College Oak, west side



Marysville Bl 170' south of Los Robles, east side



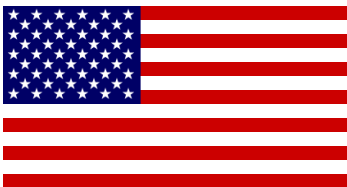
Julie Wedge, Judy Saint, Janet Thew; John Lucas, Barri Babow
Arden Way 500' east of Evergreen, south side

FREEDOM DEPENDS UPON FREETHINKERS.

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Thank You, Freedom From Religion Foundation!
From all your friends in Sacramento, current and soon-to-be!



Theme: New Traditions

This month's theme is New Traditions. One new tradition Kathy and I love is paying off balances on K-Mart layaway bills for strangers. We go to the layaway counter and let the clerk know what we're looking for: someone with a history of good paying, but is now about to lose everything for lack of payment, and which includes either children's clothing or educational games. They are most happy to spend the time searching for us, and consider it an honor to make the phone calls the next day. We do this instead of buying gifts for each other.

We firmly support the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and Article Six "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States".



Can I make tax deductible donations?
Yes! Many freethinking groups are 501c3.
See Page 7 for details.

We're on the Web!
SacramentoCoR.org



Sacramento Area's Freethinking Calendar

The Sacramento Area has its own event calendar for atheists, skeptics, humanists, and all other freethinkers. Sacramento Area groups love to cooperate and mingle, all supporting each other in these times of religious zeal. The Sac Coalition of Reason, which maintains this automatically-updated calendar, is not a club or group with a Board, or rules, but is a resource directing anyone interested to find local freethinking groups that suit them. Bookmark this calendar on your devices. It's a handy one-stop reference for almost everything going on up and down the valley.

<http://unitedcor.org/sacramento/page/>



**SACRAMENTO AREA
COALITION OF
REASON**

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